

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
KATHY SMITH
E Mail: cKat4re@sbcglobal.net

It is an honor to serve as your Department Chaplain this year. To all the Chaplains elected for this year, I know that you recognize the honor and responsibility of your position. Our National President Sandi Kriebel's theme is "**Believe ~ We can do it!**" which says it all as we work "**360 Degrees for Our Veterans & Their Families**" our Department President Ellie's theme.

The Chaplain has many duties as outlined in our ritual, including obligating members, draping the Charter and presiding over Memorial Services. We serve as an inspiration and comfort to our members and their families. Inspiration is something that comes from the heart, which encourages compassion. The best way to inspire is through prayer. If you are reading a prayer from the ritual or writing a prayer from your heart, give some thought so that you may inspire your audience to make it with true meaning and those who listen will hear and feel the message.

There will be many times when we will be asked to give a prayer. At our Auxiliary meetings or other events outlined in the ritual, it is appropriate to use the prayers printed in the ritual. At other times, we will have to be more creative. It is helpful to build a small "stockpile" of prayers ~ either from published sources or your own heart ~ so that we are prepared when we are asked.

I know that you recognize the honor and responsibility of your position. The duties of Chaplain are a solemn duty. Please keep in mind the following as we carry out our duties:

- When asked to give a prayer, remember that the prayer comes before the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag (God before Country).
- When contacting the family to offer condolences, always offer to perform a Memorial Service for the deceased Brother or Sister.
- Thinking of you, Get Well and Sympathy cards should be sent to members as outlined in the Standing Rules or as determined by our President. Sending cards is an important and inspirational act and is an important part (not the primary focus) of our position.
- Deceased members must be reported promptly to the District Chaplain, Department Chaplain and the Department Office. It is our responsibility to submit these reports.

If you would like me to send cards of condolence or cheer, please let me know the member's name and address and I will do my best to get a card sent.

Included in this program book is a three-part form for reporting your deceased members. Please complete the information and send one part to the District Chaplain, one part to the Department Chaplain and one part to the Department office. Please discard all old forms from prior years and make sure the writing is legible and with correct spelling.